REMARKS

Applicants note the Examiner's withdrawal of the finality of the office action and the withdrawal of the prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicants further note the Examiner's indication that claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Applicants wish to point out that independent claims 28-29 are also currently pending in the application. The Examiner is requested to indicate the status of those claims in her next communication.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 – Claims 1-13

In the latest Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 do not correspond in scope to applicants' previous statements that the organic solvent used in the liquid binder system "is a solvent for the glassy segment in the thermoplastic polymeric binder."

Accordingly, with this amendment, independent claims 1, 28 and 29 have been amended to incorporate this limitation in the claims. The claims as amended are believed to comply with §112, second paragraph.

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Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that claims 1-13 and 28-29, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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